



September 15, 2005

**United States
Department of
Agriculture**

Food and
Nutrition
Service

3101 Park
Center Drive
Alexandria, VA
22302-1500

SUBJECT: Extension of 30 Day Limit for Initial Carry-over of Previous Year's Eligibility due to Hurricane Katrina

TO: Special Nutrition Programs
All Regions
State Agencies
Child Nutrition Programs
All States

Our memorandum of August 31, 2005, which addressed the special needs of schools in the disaster areas created by Hurricane Katrina, allowed schools that are unable to maintain normal accounting systems to serve all meals free to students through September 30, 2005. However, in those schools that have been able to maintain normal accounting procedures and in those schools that are now returning to normal procedures, we have been asked to extend the initial 30 day carry-over of a child's previous year's free or reduced priced eligibility in recognition of the significant disruption in normal activities that occur at the start of the school year. State agencies may extend the initial carry-over for up to 30 additional days for a total of 60 operating days for local educational agencies that are in jurisdictions which are federally declared disaster areas. State agencies may also permit the extension in local educational agencies that have experienced a significant influx of students from areas affected by Hurricane Katrina and whose application processing has been delayed as a result of efforts made to accommodate displaced students.

If there are any questions concerning this policy, State agencies should contact their Regional office.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Stanley C. Garnett". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

STANLEY C. GARNETT
Director
Child Nutrition Division